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ABSTRACT

This bulletin gives information on the provision made for children aged 5 years or under in education authority nursery schools and departments in Scotland. Included are data on day nurseries, preschool playgroups, and childminding facilities provided by, or approved by, the local authorities. Tables 1-3 give details of nursery school provision in Scotland over the period 1979-80 to 1987-88. Tables 4-6 cover provision at the education authority and division level. Tables 7-10 give information on day care services. The report summarizes the main points brought out by the tables. Some additional data providing expected maximum numbers for 1987-88 are given in Annex A. Statistical notes are offered in Annex B. (RH)

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PROVISION FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

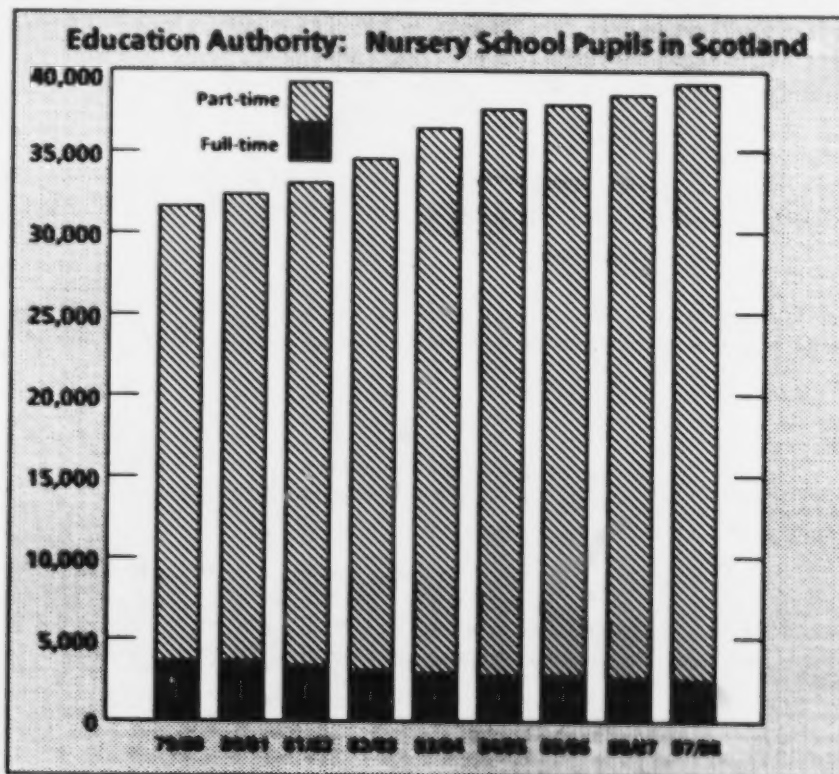
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
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1. Introduction

This bulletin gives information on the provision made for children aged 5 or under in education authority nursery schools and departments in Scotland. Additional data are given on day nurseries, pre-school playgroups and childminding facilities provided by, or approved by, the local authorities. The contents and coverage of the bulletin are described briefly below.

Tables 1-3 give details of nursery school provision in Scotland as a whole over the period 1979/80 to 1987/88; Tables 4-6 cover provision at the education authority/division level; and Tables 7-10 give information on day care services. Section 2 summarises the main points brought out by the tables. Statistical notes are given in Annex B, which follows the tables.

The data on nursery schools are derived from returns made in the annual September school census. Some additional data giving expected maximum numbers for 1987/88, are given in Annex A. The information on day care services has been obtained from returns made in March of each year.



(A breakdown of part-time and full-time pupils is estimated for sessions 1985-86 and 1986-87 see Annex B note 6)



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2. Summary of Main Points

In 1987/88 there were 596 nursery schools/departments in Scotland, 89 more than in 1979

(Table 1)

Over 39,000 attended nursery schools in 1987/88, an increase of almost 24 per cent since 1979/80. In 1987/88, 93 per cent of the pupils attended part-time compared with 88 per cent in 1979/80. Measured in full-time equivalent terms, the total number of pupils increased by 18 per cent, to 20,620, between 1979/80 and 1987/88.

(Table 1, Chart)

There were 850 teachers and 2,036 other staff in nursery schools in 1987/88. The other staff comprise nursery nurses (trained, in training or untrained) and helpers. The number of teachers has increased by 180 (27 per cent) since 1979/80. The number of other staff has been relatively constant in recent years.

(Table 1)

The pupil/teacher ratio (PTR) in 1987/88 was 24.3 compared to a figure of 26.0 in 1984/85. The pupil/staff ratio (PSR), which stood at 7.2 in 1987/88, was at a slightly higher level than in recent years.

(Table 1)

Virtually all the pupils in nursery schools are aged 3 or 4. In 1987/88, 18.1 per cent of 3 year olds and 43.3 per cent of 4 year olds were attending nursery schools, compared to 17.4 per cent and 30.1 per cent respectively in 1979/80.

(Table 2)

The incidence of nursery school provision varies considerably among education authority areas, ranging from 47 per cent of 3 and 4 year olds in Glasgow Division of Strathclyde, 48 per cent in Lothian, and 50 per cent in Fife, to 12 per cent in Highland. Western Isles ceased to provide nursery places in 1984, and within Strathclyde there is no provision in Argyll and Bute Division. Between 1984/85 and 1987/88, the level of provision increased in all regions/divisions except Orkney, where there was no change.

(Table 4)

In 1987/88 Tayside had, at 20 per cent, by far the highest proportion of full-time places; the next highest, at 10 per cent, were Grampian, Lothian and the Glasgow Division of Strathclyde.

(Table 4)

Over the period 1979/80 to 1987/88 the number of nursery teachers in Fife more than doubled. There were also large proportionate increases in Dumfries and Galloway, Central and Lanark Division of Strathclyde.

(Table 5)

PTRs vary considerably among the regions. They range from 14.2 in Orkney (where there are no "other" staff) to 28.8 in Strathclyde, and 40.1 in the Ayr Division of Strathclyde. PSRs show much less variation - other than in Orkney, they lie between 6.5 and 8.9.

(Table 6)

In 1987 there were 120 local authority and registered day nurseries with a total of 4,470 places available. The level of provision has remained relatively constant during the 1980s.

(Table 7)

Between 1980 and 1987 the total number of pre-school playgroups increased from 1,717 to 1,959; and the total number of places available rose from 41,750 to 43,430.

(Table 8)

The total number of registered childminders (local authority sponsored and private) more than trebled between 1980 and 1987, from 1,546 to 4,742. The number of children for whom these minders were registered increased from 2,880 to 10,150.

(Table 9)

Table 10 summarises day care provision for the under-5s by region/islands area. Generally, the level of provision is higher in the rural areas.

(Table 10)

Education Authority Nursery Schools: Summary Table

Table 1

	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86 ⁽¹⁾	1986/87 ⁽¹⁾	1987/88
Number of nursery schools	507	515	527	537	546	551	559	568	596
Number of pupils	31,770	32,470	33,180	34,680	36,650	37,870	38,160	38,540	39,290
full-time	3,730	3,690	3,460	3,170	3,090	2,910	..	..	2,870
part-time	28,040	28,780	29,720	31,520	33,570	34,960	..	..	36,410
FTE number of pupils	17,540	17,840	18,100	18,580	19,540	20,000	..	..	20,620
Number of teachers (FTE)	670	706	721	736	771	770	782	822	850
Number of other staff (FTE)	1,889	2,048	1,923	1,981	2,063	2,048	..	..	2,036
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	26.2	25.3	25.1	25.2	25.3	26.0	..	..	24.3
Pupil/Staff Ratio	6.9	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.1	..	..	7.2

(1) See Annex B, note 6.

Pupils in Education Authority Nursery Schools: By Age

Table 2

	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1987/88
All pupils by age ⁽¹⁾							
2 and under	90	110	130	80	110	80	130
3	11,430	11,470	11,600	11,930	11,500	11,750	11,280
4	20,100	20,760	21,310	22,480	24,860	25,850	27,580
5 and over	150	130	130	190	190	190	310
% of age group ⁽²⁾							
3	17.4	19.0	19.5	18.7	17.4	17.4	18.1
4	30.1	31.7	36.1	37.9	39.1	39.2	43.3

(1) At 31 December of Session

(2) Based on mid-year estimates of 3 and 4 year olds.

Note: Data not available for sessions 1985/86 and 1986/87, see Annex B, note 6.

Pupils in Education Authority Nursery Schools: by Age and Mode of Attendance

Table 3

Age	1984/85			1987/88		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
2 and under	10	70	80	10	120	130
3	760	10,980	11,750	700	10,580	11,280
4	2,070	23,780	25,850	2,090	25,490	27,580
5 and over	60	130	190	80	230	310
All ages	2,910	34,960	37,870	2,870	36,410	39,290

Note: Data not available for sessions 1985/86 and 1986/87, see Annex B, note 6

Pupils in Education Authority Nursery Schools: By Education Authority Area and Mode of Attendance

Table 4

Session	1984/85			1987/88			1984/85	1987/88
Authority/ Division	Mode of Attendance			Mode of Attendance			Percentage ⁽¹⁾	
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total		
Borders	0	400	400	-	400	400	16.8	16.9
Central	10	2,220	2,230	10	2,490	2,510	31.5	38.0
Dumfries and Galloway	10	300	320	0	430	440	8.7	13.0
Fife	190	3,870	4,060	200	4,080	4,280	43.5	49.5
Grampian	270	2,180	2,440	260	2,440	2,700	18.6	21.4
Highland	10	620	630	10	620	620	10.7	11.8
Lothian	730	7,270	8,000	780	7,240	8,020	45.5	48.1
Strathclyde	1,170	16,620	17,440	1,120	16,610	17,730	27.7	29.9
Tayside	520	1,640	2,170	490	1,920	2,400	23.0	25.7
Orkney	-	90	90	-	85	85	18.7	18.7
Shetland	-	100	100	-	110	110	13.6	17.7
Western Isles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scotland	2,910	34,960	37,870	2,870	36,410	39,290	28.4	31.2
Strathclyde: Divisions								
Argyll and Bute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayr	0	2,480	2,480	0	2,540	2,540	25.1	26.7
Dunbarton	80	1,860	1,940	130	1,890	2,020	20.9	24.1
Glasgow (city)	940	7,390	8,330	870	7,490	8,360	45.9	46.5
Lanark	40	2,060	2,090	30	2,280	2,310	14.5	17.4
Renfrew	120	2,490	2,600	100	2,410	2,510	27.7	29.4

⁽¹⁾ Number of pupils in nursery schools both full-time and part-time (all ages) as percentage of the mid-year estimate of the 3 and 4 year old age group.

Note: Data not available for sessions 1985/86 and 1986/87, see Annex B, note 6.

Staff in Education Authority Nursery Schools

Table 5

Session	1979/80			1984/85			1987/88		
Authority/ Division	Teachers	Other ⁽¹⁾		Teachers	Other ⁽¹⁾		Teachers	Other ⁽¹⁾	
		Staff	Total Staff		Staff	Total Staff		Staff	Total Staff
Borders	10	20	30	10	20	30	10	20	30
Central	30	70	110	50	130	170	60	120	180
Dumfries and Galloway	0	10	20	10	10	20	10	10	20
Fife	50	220	270	80	220	300	100	240	340
Grampian	80	100	180	80	110	190	100	120	220
Highland	10	20	30	10	20	40	10	20	30
Lothian	170	370	540	180	360	540	180	370	550
Strathclyde	260	960	1,220	310	1,050	1,360	320	1,020	1,340
Tayside	50	110	160	40	120	160	50	120	180
Orkney	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0
Shetland	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	10
Western Isles	0	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scotland	670	1,890	2,560	770	2,050	2,820	850	2,040	2,890
Strathclyde: Divisions									
Argyll and Bute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayr	20	120	140	30	140	170	30	140	170
Dunbarton	30	90	120	30	100	130	40	100	140
Glasgow (city)	140	510	650	160	530	690	160	510	680
Lanark	30	110	130	40	120	170	50	120	170
Renfrew	50	140	180	50	150	200	50	140	190

⁽¹⁾ Nursery nurses and helpers

Note: Data not available for sessions 1985/86 and 1986/87, see Annex B, note 6.

Pupil/Teacher and Pupil/Staff Ratios in Education Authority Nursery Schools

Table 6

Authority/ Division	Pupil/Teacher Ratios			Pupil/Staff Ratios		
	1979/80	1984/85	1987/88	1979/80	1984/85	1987/88
Borders	15.2	18.7	20.5	6.1	6.9	7.6
Central	23.4	24.8	22.7	7.3	6.4	7.1
Dumfries and Galloway	27.0	29.9	18.8	7.5	9.0	7.4
Fife	37.1	26.4	21.9	6.6	7.0	6.5
Grampian	16.0	16.4	14.6	6.9	7.1	6.8
Highland	19.8	18.3	19.8	7.3	7.0	8.9
Lothian	22.2	24.0	23.4	7.0	7.8	7.8
Strathclyde	31.0	29.6	28.8	6.6	6.8	6.9
Tayside	25.8	31.7	27.3	8.2	8.1	8.2
Orkney	18.2	14.2	14.2	15.0	14.2	14.2
Shetland	17.2	19.4	21.2	6.6	8.8	6.6
Western Isles	25.1	-	-	18.9	-	-
Scotland	26.2	26.0	24.3	6.9	7.1	7.2
Strathclyde: Divisions						
Argyll and Bute	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayr	46.6	41.7	40.1	7.0	7.1	7.2
Dunbarton	29.4	32.1	30.5	6.9	7.5	7.7
Glasgow (city)	30.9	28.4	28.1	6.7	6.7	6.8
Lanark	27.1	23.8	23.8	5.5	6.0	6.5
Renfrew	27.2	29.5	27.2	6.7	6.8	6.9

Note: Data not available for sessions 1985/86 and 1986/87, see Annex B, note 6.

Day Nurseries

Table 7

Year ¹⁾	Local Authority		Registered		Total	
	Number of Establishments	Places Available	Number of Establishments	Places Available	Number of Establishments	Places Available
1980	84	3,650	14	350	98	4,000
1981	86	3,850	16	430	102	4,280
1982	85	3,790	12	300	97	4,090
1983	85	3,680	12	270	97	3,940
1984	88	3,690	13	300	101	3,980
1985	91	3,830	10	250	101	4,080
1986	100	4,070	10	230	110	4,300
1987	111	4,250	9	220	120	4,470

¹⁾ The figures are derived from returns made in March of each year.

Pre-School Playgroups

Table 8

Year ⁽¹⁾	Local Authority ⁽²⁾		Registered		Total	
	Number of Groups	Total Number of Places Available	Number of Groups	Total Number of Places Available	Number of Groups	Total Number of Places Available
1980	33	970	1,684	40,780	1,717	41,750
1981	34	920	1,718	42,830	1,752	43,750
1982	34	720	1,692	40,210	1,726	40,920
1983	39	1,110	1,721	42,190	1,760	43,300
1984	39	1,210	1,769	42,340	1,808	43,550
1985	114	2,080	1,813	41,780	1,927	43,860
1986	74	1,270	1,853	40,230	1,927	41,490
1987	88	1,720	1,871	41,710	1,959	43,430

⁽¹⁾ The figures are derived from returns made in March of each year.

⁽²⁾ The large increase in the number of LA playgroups/places in 1985 was mainly due to the increased use of playbuses in Grampian and Western Isles.

Child Minding

Table 9

Year ⁽¹⁾	Local Authority Sponsored		Private		Total	
	Number of Registered Minders	Total Number of Children for whom these Minders are Registered	Number of Registered Minders	Total Number of Children for whom these Minders are Registered	Number of Registered Minders	Total Number of Children for whom these Minders are Registered
1980	145	240	1,401	2,640	1,546	2,880
1981	180	360	1,527	3,210	1,707	3,570
1982	183	300	1,833	3,860	2,016	4,160
1983	196	410	2,193	4,750	2,389	5,160
1984	237	470	2,605	5,390	2,842	5,860
1985	329	640	3,322	6,830	3,651	7,470
1986	167 ⁽²⁾	290 ⁽²⁾	3,759	8,230	3,926	8,530
1987	375	690	4,367	9,460	4,742	10,150

⁽¹⁾ The figures are derived from returns made in March of each year.

⁽²⁾ Figures for Strathclyde not available in 1986.

Day Care of the Under 5s by Region: 1987⁽¹⁾

Table 10

	No of Nurseries	Places Available	No of Playgroups	Places Available ⁽²⁾	No of Registered Minders	Places Available	Total ⁽³⁾ Places Available	Percentage ⁽⁴⁾
Borders	5	70	70	1,590	115	220	1,880	32.7
Central	9	400	96	2,150	364	610	3,160	19.0
Dumfries and Galloway	1	20	81	1,780	58	110	1,900	21.9
Fife	4	280	106	2,320	354	750	3,350	15.1
Grampian	7	290	229	4,910	459	1,060	6,260	19.5
Highland	3	30	158	2,960	147	370	3,360	24.9
Lothian	19	620	228	5,220	1,189	2,250	8,090	18.5
Strathclyde	60	2,260	724	16,820	1,650	3,810	22,900	15.0
Tayside	11	500	114	2,920	361	870	4,290	18.2
Orkney	1	10	20	580	10	30	620	52.7
Shetland	-	-	27	530	14	30	550	34.5
Western Isles	-	-	106	1,640	21	40	1,680	91.2
Scotland	120	4,470	1,959	43,430	4,742	10,150	58,040	18.0

⁽¹⁾ Local Authority and registered provision combined.

⁽²⁾ The number of places available in a registered playgroup is taken as the number of children for whom the group is registered.

⁽³⁾ It would be possible for a child to make use of more than one form of provision (additionally it would be possible for a child to be attending a nursery school).

⁽⁴⁾ Number of places available as percentage of the 0-4 year old population (mid-year 1986).

Information on Maximum School Rolls

Many nursery schools admit pupils at various times during the school session. Therefore it is possible that pupil rolls might reach higher levels at some time after the September school census. To investigate the size of these changes additional questions have been included in the school census return SC1/2 nursery and the table below presents information obtained from that part of the return. For session 1987/88, the total expected maximum pupils rolls was 44,460, 13.2 per cent higher than the September count.

1987 School Census**Supplementary Information on Expected Maximum Nursery School Rolls**

Authority/ Division	Sept 1987 Count	Expected Maximum Pupil Rolls	% Difference
Borders	400	420	+ 5.3
Central	2,510	2,640	+ 5.4
Dumfries and Galloway	440	470	+ 6.9
Fife	4,280	4,720	+ 10.4
Grampian	2,700	3,090	+ 14.3
Highland	620	640	+ 2.6
Lothian	8,020	9,510	+ 18.6
Strathclyde	17,730	20,260	+ 14.3
Tayside	2,400	2,460	+ 2.5
Orkney	90	120	+ 35.3
Shetland	110	140	+ 30.9
Western Isles	-	-	-
Scotland	39,290	44,460	+ 13.2
Strathclyde: Divisions			
Argyll and Bute	-	-	-
Ayr	2,540	2,700	+ 6.2
Dunbarton	2,020	2,140	+ 6.3
Glasgow (city)	8,360	10,200	+ 22.0
Lanark	2,310	2,390	+ 3.6
Renfrew	2,510	2,830	+ 13.0

Statistical Notes

1. Information about nursery education in this bulletin relates only to education authority schools. Few pre-school children attend independent schools.
2. The term 'schools' is used throughout to mean 'schools and departments'; nursery classes are treated as departments.
3. Numbers of teachers and other staff are in full-time equivalent terms. For the purpose of determining pupil/teacher and pupil/staff ratios, pupils numbers in full-time equivalent terms are used. Most part-time pupils attend on a half-day basis and for them a full-time equivalent of 0.5 is used; for those attending part-week the overall full-time equivalent is slightly under 0.3.
4. In Tables 2 and 3 mid-year populations of 3 and 4 year olds have been used. The percentages in Table 10 have similarly been calculated on the mid-year population of 0-4 year olds.
5. Numbers of pupils in the text and tables are rounded to the nearest 10; consequently, totals may differ slightly from the sum of the individual components. Percentages quoted are based on actual figures.
6. The data in Tables 1-6 of this bulletin are derived from returns made in the annual September school census. Because of industrial action in schools during September 1985 and September 1986 not all headteachers made the required returns. Only the limited data given in Table 1 are available for sessions 1985/86 and 1986/87. The data included in Tables 7-10 are at March of each year shown and have been provided by the Social Work Services Group of the Scottish Education Department. Further information on these areas can be obtained from SWSG, Division 9/3, 43 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DN (Telephone: 031 244 5578).

Previous bulletins on same topics:-

Nursery Education: September 1971-1976 - No 4/A2/1977 (October 1977)

Nursery Education - No 4/A2/1979 (March 1979)

Nursery Education - No 7/A1/1980 (August 1980)

Provision for Pre-School Children - No 6/A2/1982 (May 1982)

Provision for Pre-School Children - No 8/A2/1984 (November 1984)

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